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Fact Sheet: Some Highlights of H.R. 83, Division C, FY2015 Defense Appropriations Act

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Following are selected highlights of H.R. 83, Division C, the version of the DOD Appropriations Act for FY2015 agreed to on December 9, 2015 by negotiators for the House and Senate. On June 20, 2014, by a vote of 340-73, the House passed H.R. 4870, the FY2015 DOD Appropriations bill that had been reported by the House Appropriations Committee on June 10. On July 17, 2014, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved an amended version of the same bill.

To expedite final action on the bill (which the Senate did not take up), negotiators from the House and Senate drafted a compromise version of the defense bill as part of an omnibus funding measure for the balance of FY2015. For procedural reasons, this “Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act for FY2015” has been packaged as a House amendment to a Senate amendment to H.R. 83, an unrelated bill. The DOD part of the omnibus is Division C of the proposed funding bill.

This CRS Fact Sheet, based on the joint explanatory statement of House and Senate negotiators, is intended as a time-urgent expedient to offer Members the best available information about the bill pending update of CRS Report R43788, *Defense: FY2015 Authorization and Appropriations*, by Pat Towell.

Table 1. FY2015 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, H.R. 83, Division C

(amounts in millions of dollars of discretionary budget authority)

	Amended FY2015 Budget Request	House-Passed H.R. 4870	Senate Committee- Reported H.R. 4870	Final Bill H.R. 83, Division C
BASE BUDGET				
Military Personnel	128,957,593	128,127,640	128,430,543	128,004,618
Operation and Maintenance (O&M)	166,002,818	164,533,638	165,786,003	161,655,679
Procurement	89,660,299	91,228,819	91,409,693	93,835,072
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E)	63,533,947	63,352,890	62,566,834	63,713,275
Revolving and Management Funds	1,234,468	1,334,468	2,150,078	2,134,480
Defense Health Program and Other DOD Programs	34,101,361	33,851,219	33,641,680	34,144,557
Related Agencies	1,024,194	1,015,194	1,023,374	1,021,600
General Provisions (including rescissions)	-260,685	976,452	-1,891,348	-803,288
Subtotal: DOD Base Budget	484,253,995	484,420,320	483,116,857	483,705,993
Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) for DOD (<i>except construction</i>)	63,516,619	79,445,000	58,255,711	63,935,295
DOD Ebola-Related	112,000	n/a	n/a	112,000
TOTAL	547,882,614	563,865,320	541,372,568	547,753,288

Source: H.Rept. 113-474, *Report of the Committee on Appropriations to Accompany H.R. 4870*, June 13, 2014;
S.Rept. 113-211, *Department of Defense Appropriations Bill, 2015*, July 17, 2014; “Explanatory

Statement....Regarding the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment on H.R. 83,” accessed on the House Rules Committee website.

Note: The House-passed version of H.R. 4870 appropriated for OCO \$79.45 billion, the placeholder amount that had been included in the Administration’s initial FY2015 budget request. The Senate committee version of the bill, approved with minor reductions the Administration’s revised OCO request of \$58.47 billion to cover war costs associated with Afghanistan, and efforts to reassure European allies in the wake of Russia’s occupation of Ukrainian territory. The Senate committee version of the bill also included funds for non-DOD OCO activities and for some military construction projects, which are outside the scope of the defense appropriations bill. By the time House and Senate negotiators drafted the final bill, the Administration had requested additional OCO funds to cover operations against the Islamic State and DOD activities to combat the Ebola virus. The final bill would shift from the base budget to OCO (which is not subject to the mandatory spending caps currently in force) \$2.9 billion worth of Operation and Maintenance funding.

Table 2. Selected Administration Budget and Policy Initiatives

Issue	Administration Proposal	House-Passed H.R. 4870	Senate Committee-Reported H.R. 4870	Final Bill H.R. 83, Division C
Annual Raise in Military Basic Pay	1%, instead of the 1.8% raise that would occur under existing law (unless overridden by the President)	Adds \$533.3 million to cover the additional cost of a 1.8 percent raise (Section 8130)	No added funds	No added funds
Annual Commissary Subsidy (\$1.4 billion in FY2014)	3-year phase-in of \$1 billion reduction, beginning with \$200 million reduction in FY2015	Adds \$100 million to reverse Administration proposal	Adds \$200 million to reverse Administration proposal	Adds \$190 million to reverse Administration proposal
Housing Allowance for Assignment in U.S. (currently covers 100% of cost)	Gradually reduce rate of growth until allowance covers 95% of cost	Adds \$244.7 million to reverse Administration proposal (Section 8136)	Conforms with Administration proposal	Adds \$88.0 million as per NDAA provision allowing partial enactment of proposal (Section 8130)
Status of 11 Aegis Cruisers and Three Amphibious Landing Ships near the Midpoint of Expected Service Life	Remove the ships from service and gradually modernize them and put them back into service to replace similar ships as they are retired	Adds \$540.0 million for the proposed program but requires that no more than six cruisers at a time be laid-up and for no more than four years each (Section 8105)	Provides that no more than six cruisers at a time be laid up for modernization (Section 8105)	Adds \$540 million, requires that no more than six cruisers at a time be laid up for modernization (Section 8110)
Army/National Guard Helicopter Missions	Move all Apache attack helicopters from National Guard units to Army units; reequip some Guard units with Black Hawk utility helicopters	Prohibits removing Apaches from National Guard units until FY2015 NDAA is enacted (Section 8136)	Adds \$144 million to buy six Apaches for National Guard (included in OCO funds)	Prohibits removing Apaches from National Guard units until FY2015 NDAA is enacted (Section 8113)

Issue	Administration Proposal	House-Passed H.R. 4870	Senate Committee-Reported H.R. 4870	Final Bill H.R. 83, Division C
A-10 Ground Attack Aircraft	Retire all A-10s	Prohibits retirement of A-10s (Section 10028)	Adds \$325.7 million to continue operating A-10s	Adds \$337.1 million for A-10 operations; prohibits retirement (Section 8141)
E-3A AWACS Radar Aircraft	Retire seven (of 31) AWACS	Adds \$90.5 million to continue operating all 31 AWACS aircraft	Adds \$69.5 million to continue operating all 31 aircraft	Adds \$59.5 million for AWACS operations; prohibits retirement of any AWACS

a. NDAA, National Defense Authorization Act; AWACS, airborne warning and control system

Table 3. Selected Congressional Additions to the Administration's Request

Issue	House-Passed H.R. 4870	Senate Committee-Reported H.R. 4870	Final Bill H.R. 83, Division C
Depot Maintenance (requested \$14.0 billion)	Adds \$90.0 million	Adds \$363.7 million	Adds \$139.5 million
Facilities Maintenance, Modernization and Repair (requested \$8.2 billion)	Adds \$870 million (including \$150 million for medical facilities)	Adds \$977.3 million	Adds \$746.5 million
EF-18G Growler Electronic Warfare Aircraft (Navy)	Adds \$975.0 million for 12 Growlers	Adds \$1.3 billion for 12 Growlers and sustainment of production line	Adds \$1.46 billion for 15 EA-18Gs and sustainment of production line
F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (requested \$5.4 billion for 36 aircraft)	Adds \$879 million for four additional aircraft (funding a total of 40)	Cuts \$296 million for anticipated contract savings	Adds \$255 million for two additional aircraft (funding a total of 38)
Prospective Retirement of the Aircraft Carrier <i>U.S.S. George Washington</i> (DOD five-year budget plan assumes the ship would be retired instead of being refueled as previously planned)	Adds \$789.3 million to begin refueling and modernizing the ship	Adds \$849.0 million to begin refueling and modernizing the ship	Adds \$839.3 million to begin refueling and modernizing the carrier
Transport ships for Troops and Combat Equipment	no change	Adds \$800.0 million for incremental funding of a \$2.0 billion LPD amphibious landing transport and \$200 million for a JHSV high-speed transport	Adds \$1.0 billion for incremental funding of a \$2.0 billion LPD amphibious landing transport and \$200 million for a JHSV high-speed transport
Armored Combat Vehicles	Adds \$192.0 million to modernize M-1 tanks and buy armored tank recovery vehicles, to sustain the armored vehicle industrial base	Adds \$232 million to modernize tanks and Bradley troop carriers and buy armored tank recovery vehicles to sustain industrial base	Adds \$220.5 to modernize tanks and Bradleys and buy armored tank recovery vehicles

Issue	House-Passed H.R. 4870	Senate Committee-Reported H.R. 4870	Final Bill H.R. 83, Division C
Accrual Payments to Military Retired Pay Account (budget includes \$18.7 billion to cover estimated future payments to current servicemembers)	No change	Adds \$507 million to cover the cost of deferring a change in the retired pay COLA formula	Adds \$215.3 million
Develop a Replacement for Russian RD-180 Liquid-Fuelled Rocket Engine (used for satellite launches)	Adds \$227.0 million to develop a replacement for the Russian-manufactured RD-180 rocket engine used to launch heavy DOD satellites	Adds \$25.0 million to develop a replacement for the Russian-manufactured RD-180 rocket engine used to launch heavy DOD satellites	Adds \$220.0 million to develop a new launch engine
Equipment for National Guard and Reserve	Adds \$2.0 billion in OCO funding	Adds \$1.0 billion plus \$144 million for National Guard Apache helicopters, all in OCO funding	Adds \$2.0 billion in OCO funding plus \$378 million in base budget
Medical R&D Projects	Adds \$667.8 million	Adds \$781.2 million	Adds \$1.13 billion

Table 4. Selected Congressional Reductions to the Administration's FY2015 Request

Issue	House-passed H.R. 4870	Senate Committee-reported H.R. 4870	Final Bill H.R. 83, Division C
Smaller Civilian Workforce than Budget Assumed	Cuts \$592.3million	Cuts 497.9 million	Cuts \$673.1 million
Rescission of Funds Appropriated in Prior Budgets (and use of those funds to cover part of the cost of FY2015 request)	Rescinds \$964.6 million in the base budget (Section 8039)	Rescinds \$1.71 billion in the base budget (Section 8039) and 581.8 million in OCO (Section 9012)	Rescinds \$962 million more in base budget funds than budget assumed and rescinds \$1.12 billion more in OCO funds than budget assumed

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